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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JASON LOGAN

Bike-share gets a green light

TRANSPORTATION

City hopes to have 1,000 bikes ready by June 15 target

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

After eight years of waiting, Vancouverites could finally have the option this summer of grabbing a bicycle rather than waiting for a bus, train or taxi to get around downtown.

City staff have signed a five-year, $5-million deal with Ottawa-based company CycleHop that it hopes will see 1,500 shared bikes rolled out on Vancouver streets by the end of summer, Jerry Dobrovolny, the city's general manager of engineering services, told council Tuesday.

The program's target launch date is June 15 when the city hopes to have 1,000 bikes ready, followed by another 500 by the end of summer. If successful, the fleet could later be expanded to a total of 2,500 bikes, said Dobrovolny.

The bikes, which are being provided by French company Smoove, will be parked at 150 stations that will be spaced about two or three city blocks apart throughout the operating zone. Built-in cables will also allow users to lock the bikes to racks and other permanent structures.

Helmets will also be included at no extra cost with the bikes, which can be rented using either smart cards, a mobile app or through payment kiosks.

During the first phase of the program, bike-share stations will be limited to the downtown peninsula bounded by Main Street in the east, Arbutus Street in the west and 16th Avenue in the north.

Coun. Adrianne Carr expressed concern that the program could draw business away from existing bike rental shops, but Dobrovolny said city staff would not place the bike-share stations directly in front of rental shops.

"These bikes are heavier bikes," he said. "They're more durable bikes. They're probably not the type of bike you'd like to go for a day on."

It's unclear how much it will cost to rent a bike through the program, but in Ottawa, VeloGo bikes rent for $2.50 for a half hour or $15 a month. HUB Cycling executive director Erin O'Melinn applauded the deal, which she said gives people a convenient and fun way of getting around downtown without worrying about having their bike stolen.

$1M

The deal is $1 million cheaper than council initially budgeted for public bike-share.

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CIVIC RANKINGS

Vancouver tops in Mercer quality of living survey

People sit along the Stanley Park seawall as others fish on a sunny summer Sunday in 2013. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver is once again ranked the top city in North America in the latest annual quality-of-living survey released Tuesday by consulting firm Mercer.

The city also maintained its fifth spot among cities around the world and its place as the only North American city to crack the top 10.

Vienna was tops for overall quality of living, followed by Zurich, Auckland and Munich — all the same as a year ago.

"Quality of living continues to be high in Canada with a stable political environment and positive social benefits, offering a very desirable and safe place to live and work for residents and expatriate employees," said Gordon Frost, leader of Mercer's talent business in Canada.

"Our sustained high ranking is attractive to multinational corporations and their employees as they look to expand in Canada and provide significant opportunities to both Canadians and workers from abroad."

The rankings are based on a broad range of factors including social and economic conditions, public services, recreation and environment.

> **Canada's major cities continue to be much safer than every U.S. counterpart.**
> Gordon Frost of consulting firm Mercer

Vancouver's place at the top for North America comes despite concerns about the cost of living and home prices due to the city's red-hot real estate market.

Housing affordability for Vancouver has become a key issue for the city, where the average cost of a detached house in many neighbourhoods has soared past the million-dollar mark.

Other Canadian cities on the list include Toronto at 15th, Ottawa at 17th, Montreal at 23rd and Calgary at 32nd. The top U.S. city was San Francisco at 28th.

The report also ranks cities by measuring other factors including personal safety, which is based on internal stability, crime and local law enforcement, as well as their home country's relationship with other nations.

Luxembourg was the highest ranked on the personal safety list followed by Bern, Switzerland, Helsinki and Zurich — all tied for second.

The five Canadian cities included in the ranking were tied at 16th on the personal safety list. No U.S. cities made the top 50 for personal safety.

"Canada's major cities continue to be much safer than every U.S. counterpart. This is extremely appealing for expatriate employees looking to bring their families with them as they move abroad for work," Frost said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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– Angel Meinecke, PBA, *Owner, Celestial Accounting*

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Looking suitably familiar, Sir

SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

Mayor wears same ensemble to meetings for past 15 months

Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart is shown in a handout photo, wearing the suit he wore to every council meeting for more than a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

> There was no indication that anyone was ever going to notice.
> Richard Stewart, mayor of Coquitlam

Every Monday for the past 15 months, Mayor Richard Stewart would ride his bicycle to city hall in Coquitlam, shower and then put on the same, off-the-rack, dark suit.

And through scores of council meetings, not one person ever noticed.

"I would be shocked if someone ever raised the idea that my suit or my clothing or my hairstyle was somehow inappropriate," the mayor of the city near Vancouver said Tuesday.

"I was wearing the same suit to every meeting and (there was) no indication that anyone was ever going to notice. The point was made, I think."

Stewart began his "social experiment" in November 2014, shortly after a municipal election campaign in which he repeatedly heard comments directed only at female candidates about their outward appearance.

He had also read an article about an Australian newscaster who criticized sexist attitudes in society by wearing the same outfit for one year. The anchor, Karl Stefanovic, lamented that his female co-host received regular emails and criticisms about her clothing, Stewart said.

The mayor said he launched his own test to discover firsthand the double standard endured by women.

"The kind of comments someone will make about the female politician's clothing, about her hair. We don't say those things about men," he said.

"I think it tends to create just one more barrier for getting people of both genders to run for public office and to participate in democratic institutions."

Stewart said one of his objectives was to shine a light on gender inequity with a goal of eliminating it altogether. He said he's had trouble in the past encouraging female constituents to run for school board or city council.

"There will be other issues that (a woman) knows she'll have to deal with that a man simply wouldn't have to contemplate," he said.

"I've never heard a man say, 'Well, I got criticized because I was door-knocking in the rain and my hair wasn't in perfect condition for the all-candidates meeting that night.'"

Stewart has received plenty of supportive feedback since revealing his social experiment in a Facebook post on Sunday. Earlier this month, the mayor finally hung up the suit but not because someone figured out what he was up to.

He made the decision after a city councillor joked that Stewart didn't "get the memo" on a day he was still sporting that same dark suit while three councillors all happened to wear closely matching suits.

Stewart quipped that they should hoist his well-worn suit up to the city hall rafters, like retiring a hockey jersey, and as a reminder.

"I want us to always focus on the skills and abilities and experience that people bring to the table in every job that they do," he said.

"I want my daughters to grow up in a society where they're judged on how well they do their job and not what they were wearing when they did it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dog found abandoned

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Malnourished pet found tied to store shelf

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

The B.C. SPCA is investigating after an emaciated dog was abandoned at a West Vancouver pet store last week.

The male border collie, named Louis by SPCA staff, was found tied to a shelving unit at the back of Cute Paws Pet Food and Supplies on Marine Drive on Feb. 18, according to the B.C. SPCA.

The dog, believed to be about six years old, was found in an emaciated condition, and the B.C. SPCA is now asking for help identifying the owner.

"At this point, what we're looking for is more information and an explanation about why a dog in such condition was left tied up in a pet store," Dragana Hajdukovic, manager of the West Vancouver SPCA, told Metro. "It's upsetting to think that this poor dog was abandoned, especially in this condition."

When Louis was first brought in, she said the dog was weak, couldn't stand up for long and had trouble walking. A veterinary check revealed that the dog was severely malnourished, but fortunately does not appear to have any other health problems.

Hajdukovic urged any pet owners who can no longer care for their pet to contact their local shelter, rather than abandon the animal.

Anyone with information about the dog's owner is asked to please call the B.C. SPCA's animal cruelty hotline at 1-855-622-7722.

Louis, a male border collie, was weak and severely malnourished when he was found abandoned at a West Vancouver pet store last week. COURTESY B.C. SPCA

CLASS ACTION NOTICE

AUTHORIZATION OF A DATA BREACH CLASS ACTION CONCERNING THE LOSS OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CUSTOMERS WHO IN MARCH 2008 LEASED A CHRYSLER, DODGE OR JEEP VEHICLE FROM DAIMLERCHRYSLER FINANCIAL SERVICES CANADA INC. (NOW KNOWN AS TD AUTO FINANCE SERVICES INC.)

Introduction:
In March 2008, a Data Tape containing the personal information of all DaimlerChrysler Financial Services Canada Inc. ("**Chrysler Financial**") vehicle lease customers across Canada was lost (approximately 239,277 customers). The personal information on the lost or stolen Data Tape contained some or all of the following information: the customer's name, address, phone number, social insurance number, date of birth, as well as other information related to the status and history of the customer's credit file with Chrysler Financial.
If, on or before March 12, 2008, you leased a vehicle from Chrysler Financial (including, without limitation: **Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicles**), your personal information was likely included in the lost Data Tape. You may also have received a notification letter from Chrysler Financial in March or April 2008, informing you of the loss of your personal information.

1. **TAKE NOTICE** that on January 19, 2015, the Honourable Mr. Justice Lacoursière of the Superior Court of Québec authorized the bringing of a class action against Defendant TD Auto Finance Services Inc., formally DaimlerChrysler Financial Services Canada Inc. ("**Chrysler Financial**" or "**Defendant**"), and ascribed the status of representative to Mr. Maxime Belley ("**Petitioner**" or "**Plaintiff**") to act on behalf of the following Group:
   All persons (including their estates, executors, or personal representatives), consumers, corporations, firms, businesses, and other organizations, in all of Canada, whose personal information was stored or saved on a data tape, which was lost by Respondent while in transit on or about March 12, 2008.

2. **This class action will be brought in the Province of Quebec, District of Montreal.**

3. **The principal questions of facts and law that will be dealt with collectively are the following:**
   a. Was Defendant negligent in the handling of and subsequent loss of the personal information of the Group members?
   b. Is Defendant liable to pay damages to the Group members as a result of the loss of said information, including actual monetary losses incurred, lost time, inconvenience, anxiety and other moral and/or punitive damages caused by the loss of said information, and if so in what amount?

4. **The conclusions sought by this authorized class action are the following:**
   GRANT Plaintiffs' action against Defendant;
   CONDEMN Defendant to pay to the members of the Group compensatory damages for all monetary losses caused as a result of Defendant's loss of the members' personal information;
   CONDEMN Defendant to pay to the members of the Group compensatory and/or moral damages in the amount to be determined by the Court as a result of Defendant's loss of said members' personal information;
   CONDEMN Defendant to pay an amount in punitive / exemplary damages to every Group member, in the amount to be determined by the Court, with interest as well as the additional indemnity;
   GRANT the class action of Petitioner on behalf of all the members of the Group;
   ORDER the treatment of individual claims of each member of the Group in accordance with the Quebec Code of Civil Procedure;
   THE WHOLE with interest and additional indemnity provided for in the Civil Code of Quebec and with full costs and expenses, including expert's fees and publication fees to advise members;

5. **If you wish to exclude yourself from the class action, you must notify the clerk of the Court no later than May 28, 2016, by registered or certified mail at the following address:**
   Clerk, Superior Court of Quebec, 1 Notre-Dame Street East, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1B6

   You must state that you wish to exclude yourself from the class action of Maxime Belley v. TD Auto Finance Services Inc. (case number 500-06-000615-126).

6. **A Class Member who has not requested his exclusion by May 28, 2016 will be bound by any judgment rendered in the class action.**

7. **If you wish to remain included in the class action, you have nothing to do.**

8. **As a Class Member, you have the right to intervene in the present class action, in the manner provided for by law. If you do so, you will not be called upon to pay any costs.**

9. **For further information about this class action, you may contact class counsel and, if possible, provide your email or other address:** Mtre David Assor, Lex Group Inc., 4101 Sherbrooke St. West, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1A7
   Phone: (514) 451-5500 ext. 321 Fax: (514) 875-8218 Email: davidassor@lexgroup.ca Website: www.lexgroup.ca

THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE TO CLASS MEMBERS HAS BEEN APPROVED AND ORDERED BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF QUEBEC.

PRIVACY RIGHTS

Judge blocks bank records search

Neal Hall
For Metro | Vancouver

A B.C. judge has dismissed an RCMP officer's application to gain access to a missing woman's bank records to try to locate her.

While the judge noted that the woman is facing outstanding arrest warrants for theft and fraud, he said the woman may not want to be found and dismissed the officer's application under the Missing Persons Act.

"I acknowledge the legitimate public interest in the prompt execution of arrest warrants, but that does not justify the proposed infringement of Ms. R.'s privacy rights," Provincial Court Judge Ted Gouge concluded in a written ruling.

"The Missing Persons Act should never be used by the police as a tool to assist in the execution of a warrant for the arrest of a missing person," the judge added.

The case was heard in Campbell River, where an RCMP constable had applied in court to gain access to the banking records of the missing woman, identified as only "Ms. R," who had been reported missing by her sister on Dec. 22 last year.

The sister told the officer that she had not heard from Ms. R. since the summer of 2014.

The officer began a missing-person investigation and was initially granted a court application on Jan. 16 this year under the Missing Persons Act, requiring Service Canada to provide police with any information that would assist in locating Ms. R.

The officer then appeared before Gouge on another application for banking records from her CIBC account in B.C., believing Ms. R may have used a bank machine that would lead to her whereabouts.

Gouge noted that the Missing Persons Act was enacted two years as a result of the Missing Women inquiry headed by former attorney general Wally Oppal, with the goal of helping police locate someone in a timely manner to determine if they are safe.

The judge said the legislation was not designed to be an investigative tool by police to locate a person involved in criminal activity.

> **The Missing Persons Act should never be used by the police as a tool ... for the arrest of a missing person.** Judge Ted Gouge

IN BRIEF

B.C. attracting more visitors from France

The province says its marketing strategy, the indigenous tourism sector and more direct flights to B.C. are all behind a jump in visitors from outside Canada.

An increasing number of visitors are coming to the province from France, which tops a list of seven countries and regions tourists are flocking from.

Almost 360,000 more international visitors came to the province last year, with the total number approaching five million.

The province says the tourism industry generated $14.6 billion in revenue in 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foster parents lose bid to keep Métis toddler in B.C.

COURTS

Couple appeals decision to have child live with siblings

A Métis toddler at the heart of a court fight between her foster parents and the province walks with her foster father. The foster parents have lost their court battle to keep the girl they have raised since birth in the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A British Columbia foster mother says she refuses to give up hope after losing a court battle to adopt a Métis toddler she has raised since birth.

The woman and her husband have filed an appeal. A hearing on a temporary injunction to keep the 2-1/2-year-old girl in B.C. is scheduled for next Monday.

"It was a real disappointment," the foster mother said Tuesday. "My husband and I had a little cry about it."

The Vancouver Island couple who can't be named had filed a petition to prevent the Children's Ministry from moving the girl to Ontario to live with older siblings whom she has never met.

The foster mother is Métis, while the caregivers in Ontario are not, raising questions about whether the toddler is better off with parents who share her cultural background or her blood relatives.

A B.C. Supreme Court judge ruled the petition was an abuse of process since a similar action filed by the couple was dismissed last year.

This petition made a constitutional argument that the courts should be able to decide the "best interests" of foster children, instead of leaving the responsibility with the ministry.

"There's an entire class of children in Canada who can't have their interests decided by a court of law," said the foster mother.

"At the centre of this is an innocent little girl with real feelings and very strong bonds to her family. It's the only family she's ever known and there's no valid reason to remove her."

> **At the centre of this is an innocent little girl with real feelings and very strong bonds to her family.** Foster mother

She said she has shown the little girl photos of her sisters and would be happy to bring her to visit them. The family even considered buying a house in Ontario to allow the toddler to be close to her siblings.

She said she hasn't told the toddler about the ministry's plans to move her.

"Any time we've even come close to mentioning going to live with them, she says, 'And you come, too?' Then I back off, because I can see she's very worried and scared."

Justice Grace Choi issued a sealed decision, but it was unsealed at the request of the couple's lawyer Jack Hittrich on Tuesday.

Choi found that any constitutional arguments should have been raised in the couple's first petition, and the "facts, issues and relief sought" by the second petition are essentially the same.

Hittrich said ministry staff have set up a meeting with the couple for Wednesday to discuss a "transition plan" for the toddler.

"We don't have all the details, but they have a plan in place and I imagine they're going to be moving pretty quickly after Monday if we're to lose," he said.

The ministry said it couldn't comment on specific cases, but noted that B.C.'s child-welfare legislation dictates that the safety and well-being of children is the chief consideration.

By law, the ministry must prioritize placing aboriginal children in aboriginal homes. If that's not possible or deemed to be in the child's best interest, the department must seek approval from a committee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Police seek help naming woman found in Surrey

Police have circulated a photo of a woman they found wandering in Surrey, whose identity they haven't been able to determine.

The woman was found on Monday at about 4 p.m. near 180th Street and 66A Avenue, in the North Cloverdale West neighbourhood.

The woman has been taken to a local hospital while police and hospital staff try to identify her.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Organ donations up

Health Minister Terry Lake says B.C. has more than doubled its deceased organ donor rate since 2009.

Lake said the rate per million people has increased to 20 donations, up from 7.2 per million people six years ago.

He said there were a record 422 transplants from both living and deceased donors last year, and he credits public awareness plus the efforts of staff in emergency rooms and intensive care units for the increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Democrats off to U.S.

NDP Leader John Horgan has asked two members of the legislature to go on a fact-finding mission to see how jurisdictions in the U.S. are coping with legalized marijuana.

Finance critic Carole James and Public Safety critic Mike Farnworth are heading to Washington state and Oregon to get a sense of how the changes have worked.

Horgan said the federal Liberal government is committed to legalization, and British Columbians deserve to have a say in how that happens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tiny toads' tour divides town

NAKUSP, B.C.

Migration pits endangered species against forestry issues

A migration of toads described as a croaking, moving carpet and one of the world's environmental wonders is dividing a southeastern British Columbia village over forestry jobs and the protection of tiny amphibians.

The western toad migration near the Village of Nakusp attracts tourists every summer to the Toad Festival at Summit Lake, where people fill buckets with the toads and carry them safely across Highway 6 to forest habitat.

More than a million brown toads migrate at once, moving en mass from the lake across the highway to forested habitat where they live for four or five years before returning to the lake to breed.

The B.C. government spent almost $200,000 to build a toad tunnel underneath the highway, which is used by the toads, but many take the overland route and risk death on the highway.

"Hundreds of people go out and help them across the road," said Kootenay West New Democrat MLA Katrine Conroy who represents Nakusp residents. "It looks like a carpet of toads going across the road, especially these little babies trying to get across the road."

Conroy said the village of about 1,600 people is conflicted between protecting the jobs associated with Nakusp's community-run forest company and the possible threats logging poses to the amphibians.

"The community forest licence is an economic driver in a small community like Nakusp, but it's also a concern for the community because the toads are an endangered species," she said. "They put a large amount of energy into ensuring those little guys get across the road."

Nakusp organic vegetable grower Janet Spicer said many of her customers are forest companies, but she's pushing to have the toad migration route protected from logging.

A migration of toads described as a croaking, moving carpet is dividing opinion in the Village of Nakusp over forestry jobs and the protection of the amphibians. THE KERRI MARTIN/CANADIAN PRESS

"This is an extremely special site, holding an extremely fragile animal," she said.

"It is unique in Canada, probably North America and perhaps the world."

Wilderness Committee spokeswoman Gwen Barlee said the B.C. government is playing Russian Roulette with the survival of the toads by permitting logging and road building.

Forest Minister Steve Thomson said he's confident the migration route will be protected.

"In my perspective, the community forest is taking all the steps to deal with the presence of the toad and appropriate management of their activities," he said.

> **"This is an extremely special site, holding an extremely fragile animal.**
> Janet Spicer

Community forest manager Hugh Watt said he can guarantee Nakusp will hold future toad festivals at Summit Lake.

"I feel we're being as diligent as we can be," he said.

Watt said the community forest operation contributed $1.2 million to the local economy in 2014.

He said some local residents and environmental groups are using the toad issue to lobby for expansion of provincial park boundaries at Summit Lake.

"It goes beyond the toads," Watt said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gates likes family focus

FEDERAL CABINET

Philanthropist wants men to follow lead of McKenna

Philanthropist Melinda Gates says she wants to see male Liberal cabinet ministers follow Environment Minister Catherine McKenna's example by booking a few hours of early evening time exclusively for their families.

Gates, who believes that helping women and girls succeed will alleviate global poverty, says it would set an even stronger example if a man followed McKenna by turning off the phone between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to focus exclusively on family.

"I'm thrilled she's saying that and doing that because it takes courage, but ... it's going to take men also doing and saying the same thing," Gates told The Canadian Press on Monday.

Gates released her annual letter on international development late Monday as part of her ongoing work with the philanthropic foundation she started with her husband Bill, the co-founder of Microsoft.

Melinda Gates AP PHOTO

As it has in the past, the Gates' letter emphasizes the need to reduce carbon emissions and find ways to help the world's poorest.

On the latter issue, she said she had a long discussion with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at last month's World Economic Forum in Davos and said she is genuinely impressed with where he wants to take Canada on the world stage.

She commended Trudeau's decision to carry on with Stephen Harper's maternal and newborn child health initiative, including its one new wrinkle — removing the former Conservative prime minister's ban on funding family planning projects that use contraception.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROLL UP THE RIM

Tims to honour woman's stolen prize

A woman who posted a photo of her prize-winning Tim Hortons cup on Facebook has said she will be able to claim her $100 prize after all.

Margaret Coward of Conception Bay South, N.L., said one of her 900 Facebook friends spotted the security number on the rim of her cup in the photo she posted and claimed the $100 prize ahead of her.

"My main thing out of this is not to try to get the $100 Tim's card, it's (to tell) people: be aware," Coward told Torstar News Service in a telephone interview Tuesday morning.

She said a Tim Hortons customer service manager contacted her this week and said that she was "the rightful owner" of the winning cup.

Coward said she plans to fill out a form and send the winning rim to the company to claim her prize.

"We introduced the PIN code feature to allow winners the chance to collect their $100 TimCard prize online, as an alternative to mailing in the winning tab," Jodi Bond, director communications for Restaurant Brands International, the brand's parent company, told Torstar in an email.

"As these are unique PIN codes, we do not encourage our guests to post images of their tabs on social media until they have redeemed their prize."

Coward said she didn't know the Roll Up the Rim gift card award could be claimed online, nor did she know which of her 900 Facebook friends took the prize.

She said all she wants now is for others to know not to post their winning cups online.

"The main thing is don't post your winning cup and just be careful of what you post because sometimes your friends aren't really your friends," she said. "There's something to be learnt and I've learnt."

And what does she plan to do with her winnings? Take her husband and three children out for lunch — her treat.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Margaret Coward won a $100 Tim Hortons card on a Roll Up the Rim cup but a Facebook friend claimed her prize before she could. PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALIFAX

'We're here for you': Brewery

A brewery in Halifax has poured out a welcome glass for the community in a message to residents that "we're here for you."

Joshua Counsil, co-founder of Good Robot Brewing, said they had decided to make about 40 litres of honey porter inspired by President Obama's homebrew (dubbed Ale to the Chief) to have during an event celebrating Black History Month, considering the prominent history of the area's black community.

Evelyn White, a Good Robot patron and journalist, said she thought the Obama beer was a great idea for celebrating black history, especially since that culture brought her from British Columbia to Halifax in the first place.

Sipping the dark beer, White said "Obama and Michelle would be proud."

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Gitmo vow by Obama

HUMAN RIGHTS

Time to close site, move detainees to U.S.: President

U.S. President Barack Obama on Tuesday vowed to "once and for all" close the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and transfer many detainees to a facility in the U.S., submitting a plan short on specifics.

The facility for years has raised legal questions, become a recruitment tool for violent extremists and garnered strong opposition from some allies abroad.

"I don't want to pass this problem onto the next president, whoever it is," Obama said, in an appearance at the White House.

Obama's proposed path to closure remained unclear. It leaves unanswered the question of where in the U.S a new facility would be located and whether it could be completed by the end of Obama's term.

Moving detainees to U.S. soil is currently prohibited under U.S. law and lawmakers aren't keen to remove restrictions.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Obama had yet to convince Americans that moving detainees to U.S. soil is "smart or safe."

The proposal underscores the administration's strategy of shrinking the population, hoping the massive cost for housing the diminished population would ultimately make closure inevitable.

Under the plan, roughly 35 of the 91 current detainees will be transferred to other countries in the coming months, leaving up to 60 detainees who are either facing trial by military commission or have been determined to be too dangerous to release but are not facing charges.

Those detainees would be relocated to a U.S. facility that could cost up to $475 million to build, but would ultimately be offset by as much as $180 million per year in operating cost savings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCHOOLED IN HOSTILE CONDITIONS A Palestinian teacher leads a class of Bedouin children from the Abu Anwar community near the Jewish settlement of Maale Adumim, in the background, Monday. Last week, the Israeli Army dismantled prefab classes and homes built with a donation from the French government, forcing children to attend their class outside without any infrastructure. AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Deadline approaches for eviction of migrants

Belgium temporarily imposed border controls Tuesday to fend off a feared wave of migrants as a French court pondered whether to allow the evacuation of a muddy, makeshift migrant camp in Calais. were facing an expulsion THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Motive for Kalamazoo shootings unknown

Murder suspect Jason Dalton appeared briefly in court by video link and was charged with six counts of murder, which carry a mandatory life sentence. A judge denied bail for the 45-year-old former insurance adjuster, who admitted to investigators "that he took people's lives." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zookeepers' love triangle spat ends up in court

A former meerkat expert at London Zoo was cleared Tuesday of assaulting a monkey handler in a love spat over a llama-keeper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Driving the blood to patients faster

HEALTH

Toyota helps organization improve its workflow

When Canadians talk about ways to improve the country's health care, it's usually Swedish hospitals or U.K. regulations used as examples.

But it's the assembly lines of Japan that are proving to be the unlikely role model for how Canada can get donated blood to hospitals faster.

Toyota Canada is teaching the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) about the philosophy behind its manufacturing, and how the organization packs, processes and ships the blood at its distribution centres.

So far, the process has saved CBS an hour at its Brampton, Ont., manufacturing and distribution centre, the largest one of nine in Canada. That hour is crucial time when it involves patients in need of a blood transfusion, said Rick Prinzen, chief supply chain officer for CBS.

"These are life-saving products, so you can imagine in an ER setting where they need the product immediately, that hour can make a big difference."

Driving the change is the Toyota Production System, which the company regularly teaches to non-profits and small businesses. CBS is the latest big recipient.

The system is part philosophy, part supply-chain technique, and focuses on small improvements such as the number of steps employees make, in order to make a production more efficient.

Toyota Canada is revamping the Canadian Blood Services distribution centre in Brampton, Ont., to make its blood screening and processing more efficient. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Brampton centre supplies 105 hospitals, including all the major ones in Toronto. Many of those hospitals have major trauma centres, which are constantly in need of blood.

"(Hospital) supplies may not be sufficient to deal with that trauma event. So they need replenishment within hours," Prinzen said.

Maura Smith, general manager of Toyota Production System Support Centre, the not-for-profit that helps other businesses and charities learn the Toyota Production system, said Toyota's aim is to let CBS figure out its own process.

"We don't want to come in and tell them what to do or make changes. We want to develop their skills so they can own it and spread it throughout their organization," Smith said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TOYOTA PROCESS

Walking distance
Toyota rearranged the CBS workspace so each blood pack moved in a circle from beginning to end, cutting the number of employees' steps by 30 per cent.

Packing
The distribution area was revamped so problems are more visible, discouraging things like using another employee's printer, and speeding up the process by 40 per cent.

Ice time
The storage system was standardized, so blood packs go into the same area in each freezer to save time.

FOOD

Produce companies think local

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices may be climbing at a rapid rate, but the costs of food delivery box subscriptions are holding steady as economic and weather forces align to make local food a better deal.

"You haven't seen the increased prices on local foods, locally produced foods in the way you have for imports," said Ran Goel, who founded the Greater Toronto Area's Fresh City Farms in 2011.

Fresh City Farms is one of many food box subscription companies to offer regular deliveries of pre-selected or customized produce.

In January, food costs for Canadian households were four per cent higher than they were at the same time a year earlier, according to Statistics Canada's latest consumer price index. Fruits and vegetables fuelled the hike, rising by 12.9 and 18.2 per cent respectively.

ISTOCK

Fresh City Farms packs its produce bags with an average 70 per cent locally grown food over the year.

For example, the company's boxes include potatoes — Ontario's largest fresh vegetable crop, according to the Ontario Potato Board. The humble spud actually cost 5.4 per cent less last month than in January 2015, according to Statistics Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, February 24, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

I've been happily married for three years. My wife has no problem telling everyone we met online, but I don't feel comfortable revealing that. I don't think people should ask. What do you think?

Dear Ellen,

I have been happily married for three years and my wife and I are now the happy parents of a two-year-old girl. My question is about what to tell people when they ask how we met. My wife has no problem telling everyone that we met online, but I don't feel comfortable revealing that. I don't think people should ask. What do you think?

Name withheld, Ottawa

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm wondering if you're somewhat older than your wife, or from a generation that didn't grow up online. I've noticed a lot of people over a certain age find the idea of Internet dating faintly embarrassing, if not downright humiliating.

After researching the issue with a small focus group (consisting of me and a co-operative woman at the next table in the café where I'm writing this), my conclusion is that older grown-ups don't want to publicly advertise they're looking, in case they appear desperate; or an online predator seduces them and then cleans out their bank account; or, even worse, an old flame they still want to make jealous finds out they're pathetically scouring cyberspace in search of love.

Personally, I think young people have a more sensible approach. They're not afraid to use social media to meet their various needs. And there's no shame in acknowledging you want to share your life with someone special, so why not use every resource available to make it happen?

I can't agree with you that people shouldn't ask how you met your beloved wife.

The only downside of Internet dating I can see is that it's so labour-intensive. Even with an instant-gratification app like Tinder, where you don't have to fill out miles of questionnaires, the ratio of swiping activity to meeting-the-love-of-your-life activity is astronomical. And, let's face it, you never really know if it's going to work until you're close enough to smell the person.

Nevertheless, online mate-finding works for many, as you, my anonymous friend, are aware.

I may be wrong about your age. You might be a sprightly 25-year-old who simply doesn't care to share your Internet history with anyone who asks. But I can't agree with you that people shouldn't be allowed to ask how you met your beloved wife. It's a perfectly polite question. In fact, it's the one question that's bound to reveal what's most interesting about you, or anyone.

The story of how people fall in and out of love (the true kind, not the lust kind) is the basis of most art, literature and music for a reason — it's an endlessly fascinating mystery. Rationally speaking, it often makes no sense. Emotionally, it's the grand unified theory of everything.

I sympathize with your self-consciousness, but if you can think it through and figure out exactly what's bugging you about it, you might feel more comfortable talking about it. And the more you talk about it (within reason and to a voluntary audience, please), the less self-conscious you'll become — as well as more conscious of all the good stuff.

Something special must have initially grabbed you about your wife's posting. I wonder how many or few other candidates you had to wade through to get to each other. What did you do on your first date, and how did those first impressions of each other compare to how well you know each other now? I know that on some level you must be grateful to the Internet for leading you to being the parent of a little girl.

By the time your daughter is old enough to be curious, you will surely have a wonderful romantic tale of your own to share with her.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Lives are ruined as we wait for indigenous incarceration reform

The Liberals, so far, are a stick-to-it government.

Removing fighter planes from Syria, as they promised. Taking on a $30-billion deficit to keep their spending promises. Launching a missing and murdered indigenous women inquiry, as promised.

That last one is an important part of a revision of the federal government's relationship to indigenous Canadians. But there is another equally important part: reducing incarceration rates among the country's indigenous people.

This was, according to the Supreme Court, a "sad and pressing problem" back in 1999, when the court ruled in R. v. Gladue that judges must take indigenous people's history into account when sentencing, and seek "all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable."

Twenty-five years later, the stark incarceration rates have only become starker , while white Canadians' incarceration rates fall. A recent Maclean's investigation into the phenomenon declared Canada's prisons the "new residential schools," finding that Canada jails indigenous Canadians at a greater rate than South Africa incarcerated blacks during apartheid.

Just last week, Quebec's ombudsman concluded an "over-reliance on the courts and the resulting incarceration does nothing to solve social problems," in a damning report into the treatment of Inuit in detention centres. It called for greater crime prevention, social reintegration and alternatives to courts.

Howard Sapers, the Correctional Investigator of Canada, deemed the report "disturbing." That's coming from someone who's spent years calling on the government to address the high rates of indigenous incarceration, in particular among indigenous women inmates, who now make up 35 per cent of the female prison population.

The application of the Gladue ruling has been "uneven," he noted, and while Correctional Services of Canada has conducted training and "is probably getting better," it's still been "too slow."

Indeed. Indigenous Canadians are five per cent of the population, and if courts were making best efforts to find alternative sentences, they wouldn't be one-quarter to one-third of all prisoners.

Sapers is "encouraged" by the Liberals' statements on the issue. There's also the important fact that Jody Wilson-Raybould, an indigenous woman, is the justice minister.

We can, then, hope this decades-old problem will be meaningfully addressed. That promises for reform will be kept. As witnessed by the Maclean's article, and in so many other places: Lives are being ruined while the country waits.

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Looking for low-risk options?

NEST EGG

Some tips for investing in a volatile market

Michelle Williams

Worried about market volatility? There are options out there for the cautious investor. ISTOCK

In today's unpredictable financial market, investors are finding low-risk investments hard to come by.

"It's a tough time for investors right now due to low interest rates," says Jane Anderson, certified financial planner with Investment Planning Counsel. "If you're looking for low risk, your options are limited to high-interest savings accounts and GICs, and if invested outside of an RSP, not only are you earning low interest, you're also paying on the interest earned at your marginal tax rate. Considering inflation of up to three per cent per year, you're probably looking at a negative return on your investment."

While stocks are generally considered higher risk for higher reward, until not too long ago, some stocks were safer choices for cautious investors.

"Bank stocks are a prime example of stocks that were always considered quite safe, but today, nothing is risk-free," says Ron Dale, partner at Bongard Dale Fried Chartered Accountants.

And there's the crux — as investors shy away from the volatility in the stock market, the investment options are very limited. However, if you recognize your return will be limited, there are still products for the cautious investor.

Guaranteed investment certificates (GICs)

These are one choice for risk-averse Canadians. It's a guaranteed rate of return over a fixed period of time and the rate varies depending on the length of the term and interest rates when you purchase.

"GICs grow at different rates depending on how long you want to lock them in for," explains Dale. "A five-year commitment will get about three per cent growth, but if the market improves, you're locked into low interest rates. These days, some investors are looking at locking in for a year at a time."

High-interest savings accounts (HISAs)

These are savings accounts with competitive interest rates, but often with bank fees or minimums.

"If you need money in a pinch, you may be able to take it out penalty-free. Unlike GICs where often you forfeit interest if you cash in early, interest on your HISA is calculated daily," says Anderson. "They're the best choice right now for investors requiring flexibility and capital preservation."

Canada Savings Bonds

These come with very low interest and aren't as popular as they once were. "It's a guaranteed investment in the country, so it's seen as very safe, but the interest is extremely low, even when you take it for a longer term," says Anderson.

Risk vs. return

GICs and HISAs are low-risk options, but they also generate very low return on your investment.

"If you're making RSP contributions and you invest the money into GICs and HISAs, you've chosen the lowest risk but least rewarding options," explains Dale. "However, some people in this unstable market are just happy to maintain their investment and get the RSP tax deduction. It has to be what works best for you."

Those who are investing with a longer time horizon (10 years or more) may wish to invest in some of the more stable stocks and bonds.

"There's certainly no guarantee that these investments won't lose value from time to time and you may have to wait through the down times," says Anderson. "But if you have a long-term investment horizon, even those with low risk tolerance could explore an appropriate asset allocation strategy, including stocks and bonds."

Dale's advice for those looking for the safe option: "This may be a good time to buy RSPs and wait with them in low-risk short-term investments until the market corrects."

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Your essential daily news

Empire to stop airing on Canadian network City, will stream on Shomi

Apps fit for red carpet noshing

Forget the party mix, these bacon-toasted pecans will add a touch of class to your Oscar party. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE

Bacon-toasted nuts

Don't even think about serving that old classic "party mix" at your Oscars party.

This isn't an eight-year-old's birthday party. This is red carpet material, even if it's in your living room. So it's time to class up your party mix act. And with this recipe for spiced bacon pecans, you'll have no trouble. We start with bacon because, well, because all good things start with bacon. Once the bacon is nice and crispy, all you have to do is toss in some pecans and a whole mess of seasonings. A bit of brown sugar ties it all together.

Spiced Bacon Pecans
Start to finish: 15 minutes
Makes 2 1/2 cups

Ingredients
- 4 strips bacon, diced
- 2 cups pecan halves
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
- 1/2 teaspoon flaked salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar

Directions

1. Line a rimmed baking sheet with kitchen parchment.

2. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the bacon until almost crispy.

3. Add the pecans and toss to coat thoroughly, then cook, stirring frequently, until evenly toasted, 2 to 3 minutes.

4. In a small bowl, combine the cinnamon, cayenne, salt, pepper and brown sugar. Toss with the bacon and pecans and cook for another minute.

5. Spread out on the prepared baking sheet and allow to cool fully. Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE

Bread-based tartlets carry a Hollywood healthy salad

THE OSCARS

Finger food can be tricky for the healthy eater. Tiny bites that explode with flavour often are loaded with empty calories and little nutrition.

If you're not paying attention at a party, you can easily inhale a day's worth of calories, just because, well, you're hungry. But what if we made finger food a little healthier? That's what this Oscar recipe is — a salad stuffed with protein and veggies, but turned portable thanks to a little secret for making a better-for-you crispy tart crust.

Compared to a butter- or shortening-filled pie crust, a simple slice of white bread is a great compromise. White bread squished flat until doughy, then sprayed lightly with olive oil and baked in a muffin tin makes an amazing crust.

Salade Nicoise Tartlets
Start to finish: 45 minutes
Makes 10 tartlets

Ingredients
- 10 slices of white sandwich bread, crusts removed
- Olive oil cooking spray
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 10 small cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1 cup chopped romaine lettuce
- 1/4 pound thin green beans, steamed to crisp-tender and roughly chopped
- 5 small new or baby potatoes, cooked and thinly sliced
- 5-ounce can oil-packed tuna, drained
- 2 hardboiled eggs, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped marinated olives
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives

Directions

1. Heat the oven to 375 F.

2. Use a rolling pin to flatten the bread slices until doughy and thin. Spritz both sides of each slice with olive oil cooking spray, then sprinkle light with salt and pepper.

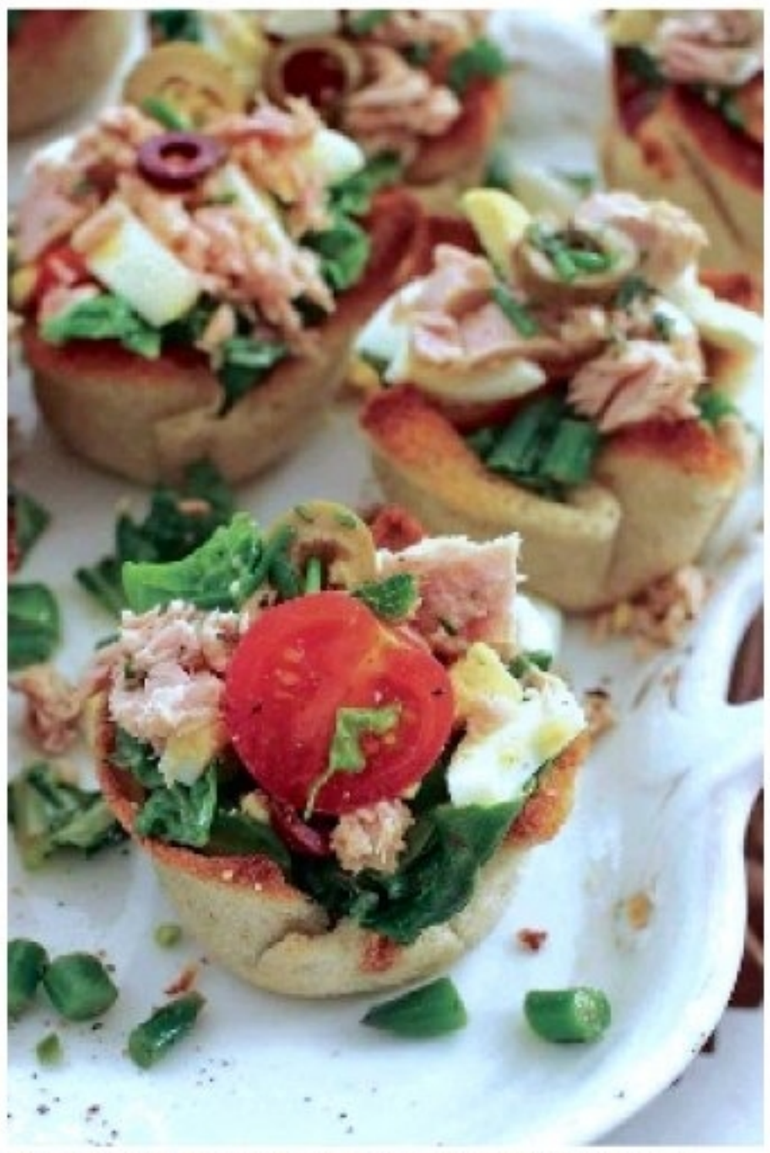
3. Press each slice into a muffin tin cup. Bake until golden, about 13 minutes. Remove the bread cups from the pan, then set aside to cool on a rack.

4. Meanwhile, prepare the salad. In a medium bowl, whisk together the mustard, red wine vinegar and lemon juice. Drizzle in the olive oil, whisking into a vinaigrette. Add the thyme and season with salt and pepper.

5. Set aside half of the vinaigrette to use later. Add the tomatoes, lettuce and green beans to the remaining dressing and toss to coat.

6. Once the tartlet crusts are cooled, layer the sliced potatoes on the bottom of each cup. Top the potatoes with the tomato mixture, then the crumbled eggs, tuna, chopped olives and chives. Finish each with a drizzle of dressing over the top.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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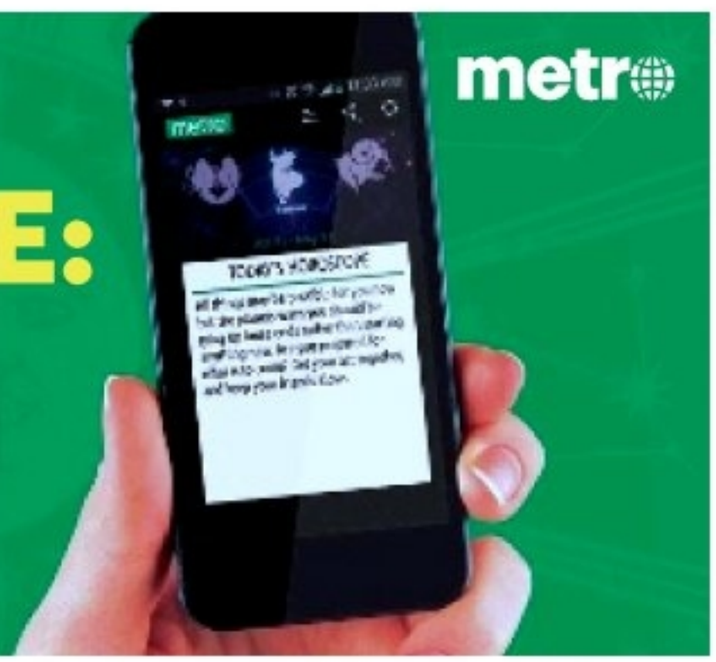

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Breakfast-on-the-go

Greek yogurt, fruit and a crunchy topping sounds like a well-rounded, tasty breakfast but grabbing it on the go can give you a sugar rush.

PICK THIS

Blueberry Oikos Greek Yogurt (served with 1 tsp pumpkin seeds)

Calories 120
Fat 3.5 g
Sugars 10 g
Protein 9 g

SKIP THIS

Tim Hortons Vanilla Greek Yogurt with Mixed Berries and Almond Granola

Calories 270
Fat 5 g
Sugar 25 g
Protein 13 g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent to 5 Nature Valley Berry Granola Bars in sugar

You've heard the old adage — breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Starting the day with Greek yogurt, fruit and granola sounds like a balanced mix of protein, fruits and carbohydrates, but the versions found at breakfast spots like Tim Hortons contain excess sugar from the granola. Oikos makes a fruit-flavoured yogurt — add a sprinkle of seeds or nuts to replace the crunchiness of the granola and save in calories, fat and sugar.

100 MEAL JOURNEY

Take small steps to change your diet

Do you favour soft drinks over water or indulge in salty snacks during that afternoon slump at work? Maybe your serving sizes are too large? Or perhaps you don't eat breakfast or enough vegetables.

Dietitians of Canada is encouraging Canadians to take a small step toward better health during this year's annual Nutrition Month in March by picking an area to improve and making changes one meal at a time.

The group is calling the 2016 campaign "Take a 100 Meal Journey" because it's estimated Canadians will eat about 100 meals during the month, and can be well on the way to establishing a habit in that length of time.

"If you break a change into smaller goals and practise it over, say, the next 100 meals, then you don't need to focus on making big changes all at once and you can certainly focus your efforts on making small manageable changes and hope that they stick in the long run," says registered dietitian Amanda O'Brien, who's based in St. John's, N.L.

One area people may want to improve upon is to cook more meals at home and increase their intake of fruits and vegetables while decreasing the amount of processed foods they eat, says O'Brien.

"Stock your fridge full of eggs, fruits, vegetables, milk, yogurt, cheese," suggests Steele.

"Buy those whole grains, bulgur, barley or quinoa or oats you need to make healthy grain choices. Have the legumes like lentils and tins of chickpeas, kidney beans ready in your cupboard so when you start to make these changes in your diet you've got those foods ready and available to use."

Reducing serving sizes might be another goal, Steele says. Put your fork down between bites and sit tight before taking a second serving.

"It can take some time for the messages to get from your stomach to your brain, at least 15 minutes for some people. Having foods that are more filling — so eating more vegetables that have a lot of fibre in them and whole grains — leads to a feeling of fullness," says Steele.

"But also having protein in your meals can make your energy last longer and be more satisfying and satiating." THE CANADIAN PRESS

DRINK PICK

Portuguese red delivers tasty new-wave flavours

Portugal flies so far under the radar of most wine drinkers that, unless you're Portuguese, it barely registers. That's why its tasty reds top my list as the most undiscovered wines on liquor store shelves. They offer appealing new-wave flavours (that give Italian reds a run for their drinkability) at very reasonable prices.

First produced in 1850, José Maria da Fonseca Periquita Original ($7.79 -$12.49) was Portugal's first branded wine. The 2013 vintage, made from a blend of Castelão, Trincadeira and Aragonês, is a smooth, lightly tannic mix of wild dark berries. Try with meaty pasta dishes, beef stew and grilled chicken.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

PETER ROCKWELL/ METRO

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Getting panties in a selfie

THE AD CAMPAIGN: MTV and U by Kotex team up to Save the Undies (MTV, Much, E! and VEVO)
THE MOMENT: The Undie Waving

Kotex ad. YOUTUBE SCREENGRAB

In four one-minute spots, attractive young women stand in a dressing room, answer questions about their periods, and take duck-face selfies with their panties. Seriously.

Maripier Morin, identified as "Montreal It Girl," reveals that she wears different types of panties for work and sleep (gasp!). Etalk reporter Liz Trinnear announces that, when she's on her period, "If I want that chocolate, I'm going to eat that chocolate." She also debunks the myth that one shouldn't dye one's hair during "that time." "I talked to my hairdresser about this last night!" she cries passionately.

The Baker Twins, ID'ed as "Much Digital Studios creators," confide that they wish someone had taught them to use a tampon. Tasha Leelyn, also a Digital Studios creator, proclaims that her "period spirit animal" is a tiger, and advises, "Be proud of your undies. It's part of being a girl."

Is this campaign a healthy embrace of female biology, or the ultimate end point of narcissism? Do we really need to fetishize every single thing that happens to us? What's next, Airwick celebrates breathing with its "You breathe, girl!" campaign?

In the text that accompanies these ads on MTV's website, a Kimblerly Clark spokeswoman avers, "Women across Canada lose millions of pairs of underwear each year due to failed period protection" — a sentence so solemn, it's almost parody. Infomercials like these seek to erase the line between telling us something and selling us something, leaving only a faint, rusty stain to remind us it was ever there.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Film as metaphor

TOUCHED WITH FIRE

Paul Dalio uses film to explore beauty, horror of being bipolar

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby in Touched with Fire. CONTRIBUTED

Touched with Fire stars Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby as two poets with bipolar disorder. It's the work of Paul Dalio who wrote the screenplay, directed, edited and even wrote the musical score.

"The film was kind of a metaphor for my story," he says. "It was my struggle to come to terms with all this beauty that I found in this thing and all this horror I found in this thing. And how you reconcile that. It took the form of these two lovers who each represented a different aspect of it. As these two lovers pursue their love it goes back and forth between agony and ecstasy. They have to come to terms with it."

Dalio's issues with mental health began when he was in his undergrad years for Dramatic Writing at New York University.

He describes breaking into a "hypomanic state when I was experimenting with marijuana," which he used as a "creative catalyst."

"I didn't know at the time if you have the bipolar gene and you smoke marijuana it actually pushes your mind into a hypomanic state," he says. "It makes you temporarily more creative with a quicker mind. At first it was thrilling. It got to the point where my fingers couldn't keep up with my mind. I had to use a voice recorder. Then my thoughts started overlapping and my mind couldn't keep up with my thoughts. I would go for runs with the voice recorder to try and speed my mind up to keep up with these overlapping thoughts."

"For a while my professors started to really praise my work, saying it was brilliant, which they never had before. I felt like I was tapping into some kind of divine illumination. I started to think I was experiencing God. Visions from God."

Soon the creativity that once seemed like a gift "took the form of a demon that was inside of me. Possessing me, laughing at me and my mistakes."

Dalio spent four years gripped by suicidal thoughts and manic behaviour until realizing, "I couldn't put my family through that anymore so I had to resign myself to living numb on medication and just getting by."

A meeting with author Kay Redfield Jamison whose book Exuberance: The Passion for Life explores the mind's pathologies convinced him that he could live and work creatively on his medication.

"She said she experiences exuberance all the time and I absolutely will if I am patient. She also said she doesn't know one artist who isn't more creative after bipolar than before bipolar as long as they are on the meds. It changed everything. It gave me hope. I had something to fight for then."

SANITY/LOVE

Seed of the film is sown
Director Paul Dalio and his wife cinematographer/producer Kristina Nikolova were in Bulgaria nearing the end of production on her movie Faith, Love and Whiskey. She asked him to write a story for her to direct and as she remembers he said, "How about two crazy people meeting in a psychiatric hospital and they have to basically choose between sanity and love?" She said, "Wow, that's a great idea, but it's your story."

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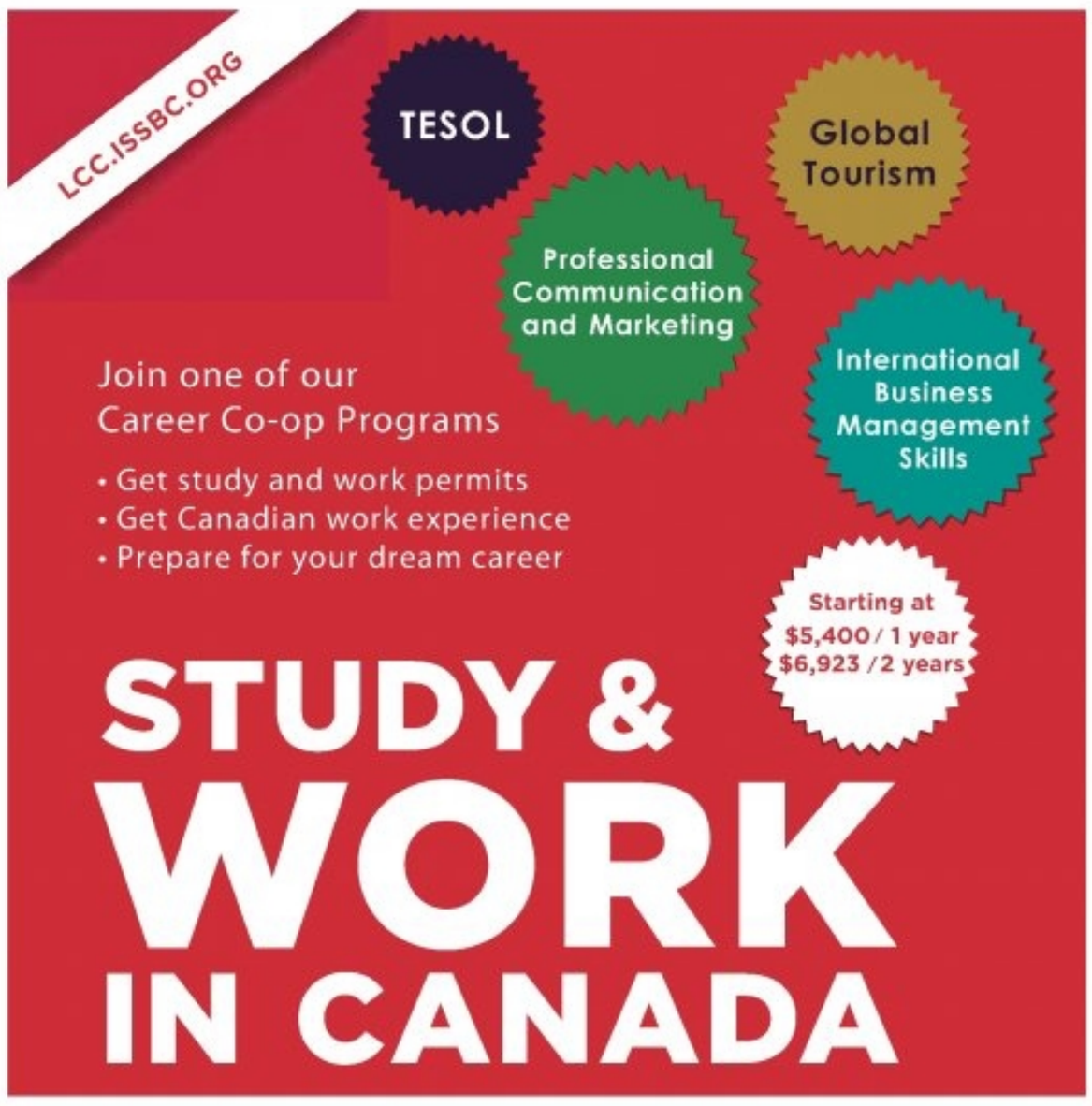
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Mercedes hopes to repair diesel's image with new OM 645 engine

Feisty and smart

REVIEW

Think less cute, more punk for 2016

Mike Goetz
For Metro

Virtually every time a nameplate gets a major design overhaul, it gets a little bigger.

Not the smart. Ever since its initial introduction back in '98, Mercedes-Benz has heard people constantly question why anybody would need a car this small. But this never seemed to detract from the commitment Mercedes-Benz has had, and continues to have, for smart's tiny-car format.

This third-generation version debuting for model-year 2016 is still only 2.69 metres long. Of course, it is designed to thrive in congested cites, where parking is at a premium, and priced by the foot. Canadian urban centres are not yet so packed, so going with the smart would seem more of a lifestyle choice.

There is no denying this is a very economical, green, and "short" way to stand out from the crowd.

If you've always been intrigued by smart, and those unique suite of attributes, the 2016 model represents a great time to jump on the smart train.

For one thing, it now has an automatic transmission (a dual-clutch type) that actually feels like a regular automatic. The previous one was famously jerky.

For another, overall on-road refinement is way up. For a car with such a small wheelbase, and such a small overachieving three-cylinder engine, it feels remarkably stable, comfortable, and free of vibration. Only when the pavement gets really rough does the little car feel a bit jittery.

Performance is more than adequate. I don't know if it's just me, but I've always looked forward to jumping into a smart. Turning is quick and it boots around town in a merry way, which always seems to put a smile on my face. I also like how the styling has evolved to match its now feistier demeanour.

The interior continues past themes of pod-like elements, and funky colour combinations. Our tester had an orange interior. Some hard plastic bits will remind you that this is not a luxury car, but what other car can give you an orange option for the interior?

While an infotainment screen is optional on high trim lines, the smart acknowledges and leverages the reality that a lot of potential buyers are now heavily invested in their smartphones, and would rather use them for infotainment purposes.

As such, smart provides a great smartphone cradle, which positions devices exactly where an in-car screen would go.

While cargo capacity has increased, it remains relatively minuscule — think carry on. This lack of utility, combined with seating for only two, keeps smart off the shopping list of a lot of consumers.

Especially as non-premium brand small cars, like Nissan Micra, Chevrolet Spark, and Mitsubishi Mirage are considerably cheaper and actually have similar or better fuel economy. For example, the combined city/highway fuel rating for the Mirage is 5.9 L/100 km, while the smart is rated at 6.9, and requires premium fuel.

But no other car looks like — inside and out — or drives like, the smart fortwo. It's a singular experience, and a fun and economical one to boot.

Long live the tiny smart fortwo.

MAIN: GETTY IMAGES, INTERIOR: MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO, OTHERS HANDOUT

THE CHECKLIST

2016 SMART FORTWO

THE BASICS

- **Type.** Two-door, two-passenger, RWD, rear-engine, microcar
- **Power.** Twin-turbo, 900-cc, 89-hp, inline three-cylinder
- **Transmission.** Five-speed manual, Six-speed dual-clutch automatic
- **Price.** Base $17,300 (plus destination)

COOL FEATURES

- Smartphone Cradle positions phone for perfect sight lines, with integrated USB port and an app that connects phone to audio system.
- Crosswind Assist automatically and carefully brakes vehicle when it encounters a gust, to stabilize the vehicle and allow the driver to correct the path.

POINTS

- All-new, third-generation smart introduced to Canada in 2015.
- New styling ethos forgoes cuteness for more punk-ish attitude.
- Outrageously tiny turning circle, good for quick U-turns.

MARKET POSITION

- City car, but with premium positioning and stylish flare.
- Only 2.69 metres long, so Canada's shortest vehicle, by a long shot.
- Conceived around the concept of individual urban mobility and to thrive in congested cites.

THE COMPETITION

Chevrolet Spark
Base Price: $11,595

Fiat 500
Base price: $18,995

Nissan Micra
Base price: $9,998

INNOVATION

Ford Kuga SUV's sharing-economy app is on-trend

Ford has taken the unusual step of revealing its latest compact off-roader at a mobile technology conference, rather than at next month's Geneva motor show.

However, with the amount of connected technology built into the new Kuga, the Mobile World Congress is perhaps the best venue.

"New Kuga offers cutting-edge new features and technologies that will help drivers stay connected, comfortable, safe and stylish on the road," said Joe Bakaj, vice president, Product Development, Ford of Europe.

The most notable of which is the Sync 3 infotainment system. It is getting a host of new features including better 'natural language' voice recognition so that owners will be able to converse with their cars.

It means that if the driver is looking for a fuel station or the closest branch of Starbucks, he or she simply says "I need a coffee," or "I need fuel" in order to initiate a local search and activate the navigation system.

The platform also features a new app that will let users potentially finance a journey by offering to transport a package. Called MyBoxMan, it could enable a driver to earn €5-€8 ($7.50 to $12) for a five-kilometre journey.

"(It) opens up entirely new ways for drivers to stay connected and even earn money," said Scott Lyons, business and partner development, Connected Vehicle and Services, Ford of Europe. "Like a ride request service for deliveries, MyBoxMan is breaking new ground in social shipping, making intelligent and efficient use of car and van capacity on trips that are happening anyway."

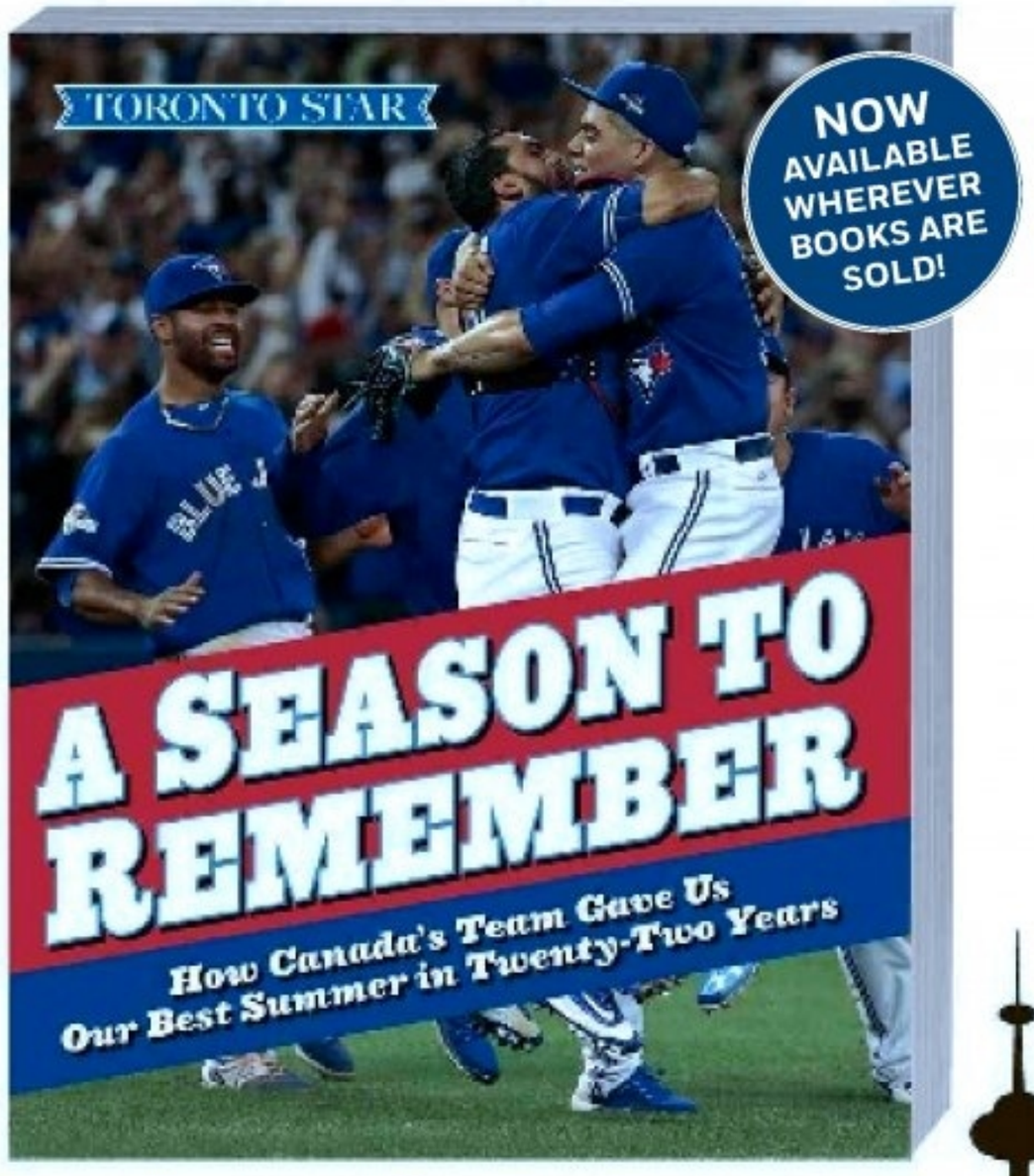
The car boasts a host of active driver aids including a new parking assist feature that can recognize a suitable space as well as help a driver enter it or exit. Its emergency autonomous breaking system (called Active City Stop) has been upgraded to work at speeds of up to 50km/h) and the car also gets new adaptive headlamps that base the strength and angle of illumination on the car's speed, the direction of the steering wheel and the ambient light levels.

"Demand for SUVs is stronger than ever, and Ford is expanding its range to offer everything from rugged models with true go anywhere ability to sporty models designed to suit urban lifestyles," Bakaj said. AFP

Kuga's platform includes an app that lets users make money by transporting a package. HANDOUT

ONE NATION ONE TEAM

A SEASON TO REMEMBER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metro SPORTS

"Good God almighty," Jim Ross, best known as a play-by-play voice for WWE, has signed on to be a boxing announcer for CBS Sports

Newly-acquired centre a 'smooth' operator

CANUCKS

Granlund, 22, practises on line with Vey and Etem

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

In addition to his regular power-play time and second-line duties, Sven Baertschi has also taken up the role of chaperone — at least for now — to Markus Granlund, the newest Canuck, as he gets adjusted in Vancouver.

"I picked him up this morning," said Baertschi after practice at UBC on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Granlund, acquired Monday from the Calgary Flames in exchange for prospect forward Hunter Shinkaruk, took part in his first practice with his new teammates.

Baertschi and Granlund go back a ways. Both joined the Flames organization at the 2011 draft. They played together in the minors. Now they've been reunited as Calgary castaways with the Canucks. They also both have a history with current Canucks assistant GM John Weisbrod from their days within the Flames organization.

The Canucks believe they've acquired a good two-way forward in Granlund, who says he's most comfortable at centre.

"I think I can play more with the puck. I know I have the skill to do that," said Granlund.

The Canucks also dealt away a skilled prospect that was having a much-improved sophomore season in Utica, although the Jim Benning management regime — ripped in the past for its asset management — wasn't sure Shinkaruk could translate that ability to the NHL.

> **The main thing for him is shots — they kind of come out of nowhere. They're quick.**
>
> Sven Baertschi on Markus Granlund

As Granlund's career potential has been called into question — he had seven points in 31 games in Calgary this season with a 44.5 per cent Corsi For rating at even strength, as per War-on-Ice.com — Baertschi provided a positive scouting report.

"He's just smooth, you know? His stick handling's so smooth," said Baertschi.

"Combined with his skating, together I think that's a good combo. The main thing for him is shots — they kind of come out of nowhere. They're quick. There's not a big windup or anything."

Granlund is waiver eligible next season.

He skated on a line with Linden Vey and Emerson Etem at Tuesday's practice. The Canucks play the Ottawa Senators at Rogers Arena on Thursday.

Markus Granlund, left, was acquired by the Canucks in a trade that saw Hunter Shinkaruk move to the Flames. GETTY IMAGES FILE

14

Granlund has 14 career NHL goals in 86 games.

LIONS

Jennings a 'full go' after injury

Jonathon Jennings is in Vancouver this week, meeting with the B.C. Lions coaching staff as the three-month mark to training camp creeps closer.

He has returned to training "full go" for two months now after injuring his left shoulder — a sprained AC joint, head coach and GM Wally Buono revealed in November — in the West Division semifinal loss to the Calgary Stampeders.

Despite the injury, Jennings was penciled in at the end of the season as the incumbent No. 1 quarterback for the Lions heading into the upcoming June training camp, after impressing as a rookie in the back half of the 2015 campaign.

"It was pretty clean," Jennings said in a phone interview Tuesday.

"I was fortunate it was only that. But it was just a little sprain and something that (I) could get back in a couple of weeks from."

Since Jennings cleaned out his locker last fall, the Lions have made numerous coaching and personnel changes on the offence. Gone are Jeff Tedford and George Cortez. Gone is running back Andrew Harris.

Khari Jones takes back his old post as offensive coordinator. The Lions also added receiver Nick Moore back to their roster and free agent running back Jeremiah Johnson earlier this month. CAM TUCKER/METRO

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Jays mum on Bautista deal

MLB

Slugger denies seeking $150M over five years

Toronto Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins is keeping his lips sealed when it comes to contract negotiations with slugger Jose Bautista.

Atkins addressed the media Tuesday at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium, a day after Bautista said he had given management his terms on any potential deal in an earlier meeting. "If you want me to say the same thing 25 times, I'll say the same thing 25 times: When it comes to a negotiation, a trade rumour, we are not going to discuss them publicly," said Atkins, who repeated some version of that mantra no less than five times within the eight-minute scrum.

After a breakout season in 2010, Bautista signed a five-year contract worth a guaranteed $65 million US. His 2016 option was picked up at $14 million and he could become a free agent at the end of this season.

Bautista said Monday he feels he's outperformed that contract. A media report Tuesday suggested Bautista's proposed deal was a five-year term for $150 million, which the slugger later denied. Atkins wouldn't reveal anything specific about Bautista's comments or about the earlier meeting he had with the all-star right-fielder.

"All of my interactions with Jose have been incredible," Atkins said. "I love being around the guy. But in relation to the negotiations, out of respect for him, out of respect for the Blue Jays organization, we just can't get into the specifics of it.

Bautista, who led the majors in home runs in 2010 (54) and 2011 (43), hit 40 homers last season while driving in 114 runs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jose Bautista is slated for free agency after the 2016 season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Messi's brace leads Barca over Arsenal

Two goals from Lionel Messi steered Barcelona to a convincing 2-0 victory over Arsenal in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday. Messi provided a clinical finish to a breakaway move that featured strike partners Luis Suarez and Neymar in the 71st minute and then scored an 83rd minute penalty to seal the first-leg match.

Also on Tuesday, Juventus came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 against Bayern Munich in the first-leg match.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grizzlies' Gasol ruled out for remainder of season

Grizzlies centre Marc Gasol will miss the rest of this season after having surgery to repair his broken right foot. The team said Tuesday that Gasol had surgery on Saturday.

General manager Chris Wallace said in a statement that surgery went according to plan and Gasol is expected to make a full recovery. Gasol scored 11 points in the first quarter Feb. 8 against Portland before leaving with the injury.

Gasol averaged 16.6 points and 7.0 rebounds this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Employment information for career decisions

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

RECIPE Turkey Lettuce Wraps

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Give tortillas a break and send in lettuce to make these zesty, crunchy turkey wraps.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

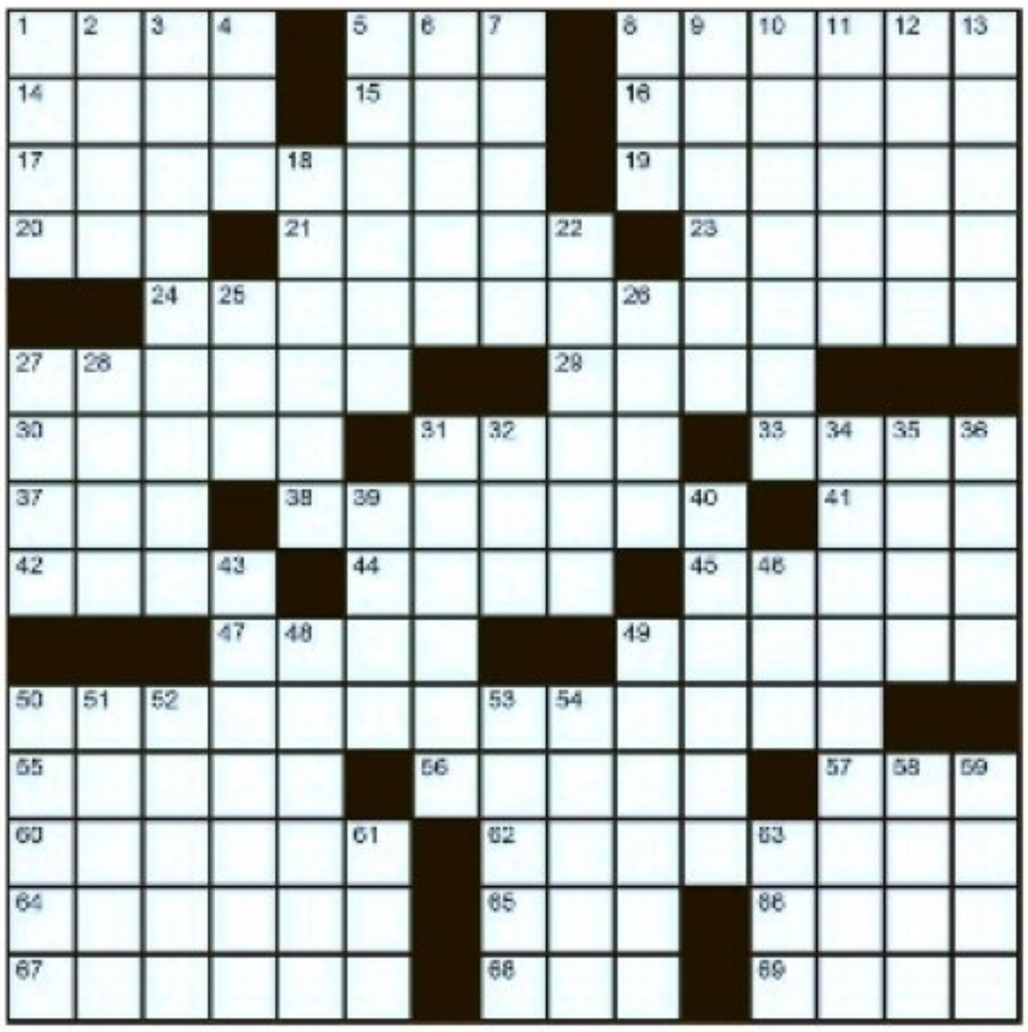
Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp of vegetable oil
- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 1 tsp ginger, minced
- 1 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp Sriracha
- 1/2 cup water chestnuts, diced
- 1 head of Boston or bibb lettuce
- 2 scallions, chopped
- small handful of cilantro, chopped
- small handful of unsalted cashews, chopped

Directions
1. In a large skillet, drizzle the vegetable oil and warm it up to medium heat. Add the turkey and break it up as it browns until almost cooked through. Add the peppers, garlic and ginger and keep pushing everything around until the vegetables begin to soften. Pour in your vinegar, soy and Sriracha, along with the water chestnuts and give it all a stir. Place the meat mixture in a serving bowl.
2. Place clean and dried whole lettuce leaves, chopped scallions, cilantro and nuts all on the table, along with meat mixture and let everyone assemble their lettuce wraps. Making them in your hand works best — so place a lettuce leaf in one and scoop the fillings in with the other, fold up the leaf and bite in.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Ox-eyed goddess
5. Aesop's Fables creature
8. Put away
14. Eye __ (Optometrist's skill)
15. Wear
16. Change a moniker
17. Norman Bethune's field
19. Sooner or later: 2 wds.
20. 23rd Greek letter
21. Weaponize again
23. Father, in Latin
24. Stage name of Canadian singer Beatrice Martin: 3 mots
27. Most-shown-off muscles
29. Singer Ms. Tennille
30. Earthy pigment
31. Puck-into-net meaning
33. Troll
37. Honolulu necklace
38. "__ Hal" (2001)
41. Tear
42. Bustles
44. Burton and Golden
45. Violin of Cremona in Italy
47. _-_-date
49. Saskatchewan hamlet, our great land when read backwards
50. What Maritimes food 'dulse' is: 2 wds.
55. High IQ society
56. More healthy
57. Pant leg part
60. Per __ (For each person)
62. Sliding ballet move
64. Thwarted
65. Register
66. Ms. Korbut
67. Compounds in perfume
68. Shakespearean suffix
69. Ran, as clothing dye

DOWN
1. __ seed oil
2. Antiquated amours
3. Salad ingredient
4. Sherbrooke sidekick
5. Parisian farewells
6. Submarine instrument
7. Ventriloquy's Mortimer
8. Lanka's lead
9. __ bowling
10. Lake __
11. Seasoned yogurt side dish of India
12. An archaic ant
13. John __ (Tractor company)
18. Brunch servings
22. Copper and silver
25. Not 'neath
26. On-a-horse sport
27. Gaucho's weapon
28. Frosted
31. Protective shoe covering
32. Certain cheer
34. Breathtaking space in the Canadian Museum of History for the First Peoples of the Northwest Coast exhibition: 2 wds.
35. Ms. Hayworth
36. Majestic
39. Detest
40. Flamingos and Herons
43. Lessen
46. W.C.'s co-star
48. Chef, when prepping the dish for the waiter
49. "Anchors __" (1945)
50. Roast's host
51. Bargains
52. Opinion
53. "Save Tonight" by __-Eye Cherry
54. Dispense
58. Boundary
59. Hoover Dam lake
61. Want __ (Newspaper listings)
63. Bawl

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You can't explain how you've reached a decision but you must have the courage to see it through. The more your rivals oppose you, the more right you are.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You'll make friends with someone today who could become a lover. Act quickly if you think they might be the one for you. You're not the only one who has designs on their affections.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Money and possessions cannot make you happy, so forget about your cashflow problems and focus on affairs of the heart. Don't worry about making ends meet — it's meeting the right person that matters.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Forget about duty and routine and focus on the one thing that means the most to you. You always do what is expected of you but now you must free the creative side of your nature, even if it means breaking a few rules.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You'll have to put up with people who don't want you to succeed. As a general rule the more others criticize the more certain you can be that you are moving in the right direction.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's a good time for social activities but you may want to stay in if your 'To Do' list is long. You should know by now that you'll always find work if you look for it — so don't look!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's good to have respect for powerful people but don't forget that they're human too. Your respect for one is based more on emotion than logic. See them for who they really are.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Mars in your sign makes you hugely ambitious but there will always be things you cannot do on your own. Reach out to people who share your passion and principles. Together you will achieve something remarkable.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today you should shut your ears to the outside world and take no notice of what others are saying. There is so much gossip doing the rounds at the moment that it is sure to end in tears.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You seem to be flavour of the month. Make the most of it but don't get carried away and give someone the idea that they mean more to you emotionally than is actually the case.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to retreat into your shell, but don't cut yourself off completely. The planets indicate there could be a new love interest!

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Now that the full moon has started to fade, look back on your words and actions of the past few days and you'll see how they were driven by emotion rather than logic. You may need to backtrack on some of the things you promised!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	8						9	
3		2				4		5
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		5		3		7		
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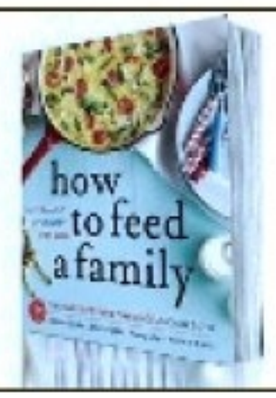

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

7	6	4	2	5	8	9	3	1
9	8	3	1	7	6	5	2	4
2	5	1	3	9	4	7	6	8
4	3	9	5	6	7	8	1	2
8	1	7	4	3	2	6	5	9
6	2	5	8	1	9	4	7	3
5	4	6	9	2	1	3	8	7
3	9	2	7	8	5	1	4	6
1	7	8	6	4	3	2	9	5

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STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

MTI helped me to grow as an individual. They boosted my self-esteem and helped me realize that I could strive for more. Through this college I met new people who became so close to my heart. Also, I met a passionate and wonderful instructor inside and out.

- Arielle R.

I decided to go to MTI Community College right after high school. I chose the Special Education Teacher Assistant program due to the specialization of the program and because I was impressed by the instructor.

- David M.

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